

New Books

ARMS FOR THE ARABS

The Soviet Union and War in the Middle East

Jon Glassman
In addition to detailing the escalating military support of the Arab states by the Soviets, Glassman traces the expanding Soviet approval of extreme Arab goals and its increasing political involvement.

Johns Hopkins, 272 pages, £9.40

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Edward S. Corwin

In this collection of 12 articles Corwin deals with important issues in constitutional law and political thought. Through the use of salient examples, he pinpoints the interplay of human character, legal concepts and political and moral ideas in the evolution of presidential power.

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Peter J. Katzenstein
In an application of political science techniques to a subject traditionally in the domain of history, Mr. Katzenstein analyses Austro-German relations since 1915 in six chronologically arranged case studies.

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Political Culture and Cultural Politics

Donald K. Emmerson
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Edited by James C. Mohr
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David R. Sturtevant

The author surveys a century of uprisings, arguing that they sprang not only from economic conditions but from profound tensions in Philippine culture.

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Revised Edition

Robert Leggett and George Lindbeck
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The Socialism of Skilled Workers, 1830-1906

Bernard H. Moss
Mr. Moss develops important revisions in our understanding of French politics and society in the nineteenth century and suggests a new approach to socialist ideology, not as abstract theory but as the result of historical experience and process.

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Mehesh C. Regmi

In this work, Mr. Regmi makes three major contributions. First, he describes and analyses the traditional Nepalese landholding system. Second, he analyses the present status of land reform achieved since 1957. Third, he offers proposals for future action.

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INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT HISTORY

Hermann Bengtson, translated by R. I. Frank and Frank D. Gillard

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A Group Approach

Norman E. Zinberg, Harold N. Boris and Marilyn Boris
The authors describe an innovative group approach to social education, emphasizing the process by which people attempt to discover and express their social attitudes.

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THE NEW RELIGIOUS CONSCIOUSNESS

Edited by Charles Y. Glock and Robert N. Bellah

Beginning in 1971, an extensive research project was undertaken by a team of sociologists, historians and theologians to study new religious and quasi-religious groups in the San Francisco Bay Area. In this book, detailed reports are offered on several movements and the authors examine the impact of these movements on established religion and the population at large.

California, 496 pages, £9.76

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California, 496 pages, £9.76

TELEOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS

An Etiological Analysis of Goals and Functions

Larry Wright
Professor Wright canvasses various problems including the case against teleology, the characteristics of directed behaviour, the several categories of functions, and the nature of action.

California, 276 pages, £10.90

THE ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN DRUG COMPANIES

How Multinational Drug Companies Say One Thing About Their Products to Physicians in the United States and Another Thing to Physicians in Latin America

Milton Silverman
Dr. Silverman describes how some multinational drug companies are drumming up business in Latin America in order to sell more of their products.

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Alf Hiltebeitel
This book is concerned with Kralina as he is portrayed in the Mahabharata, the greatest literary achievement of Indian culture.

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Professor Morton makes a thorough exploration of the modal system. This is followed by a description of the main forms of Thai music and its position in past and present cultures.

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fifteenth-century Paris. And, as if to appropriate Gilliat's inspiration, Hugo calls this first chapter "Un mot écrit sur une page blanche". What is inscribed on paper will never crumble like stone nor melt like snow.

Les travailleurs de la mer was conceived and produced in the middle years of Hugo's long absence from France, during the tenure of the disgraced and despotic Napoleon-le-Petit. The Second Empire, as a resurgence of monarchy, was a setback for the future. But Hugo was resilient; what, in the long run, were setbacks but a postponement of the story's ultimate gratifications but also a necessary contribution to them? "Se faire servir par l'obstacle est un grand pas vers le triomphe" is the sunny motto which sustains the inspired Gilliat in his exile, as especially, profitably at work on his isolated rock as Hugo on his offshore island.

Disappointed, it may be, with the architecture of men, Hugo turns, in *Les travailleurs de la mer*, to the architecture of God to solicit a superhuman corroboration of his own principles. There is nothing restful or domestic about his Channel Islands; they are a wild, aggressively natural place, the turbulence of whose storms booms out in reproach at his docile compatriots, acquiescing in the tyranny of their country on the nearby mainland. And because Hugo, in Guernsey, is the custodian of French liberty, the Channel Islands themselves are free through and through, in their customs, their institutions and their weather. Hugo goes in very literally for geopolitics: for him, it is topography which determines regimes. The Channel Islands are not free and an archipelago, but free because they are an archipelago.

And so with the Channel Islands too, preternaturally driven and independent men, and either very good, like Gilliat or Mess Lethierry, whose steamer it is which is wrecked, or very bad, like the devilish Clubin and, I suppose, the octopus. Gilliat is another Quixote, not only this time but strange and silent enough to frighten the locals. He is a social utopian at last ingratiate him with the community. His story ends, on the face of things, badly; it is for love of the dénouement that he has told, but his knowing ending is the only one that can be said to be up to Anglicanism, this, because this

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To the Editor

Literary Fingerprints

Sir—Answers to some of the questions asked by Francis Noel Lees (October 8) about fingerprints as an aid to literary research may, perhaps, be suggested by experience which I began some time ago. With the expert advice of Detective Chief Inspector Peter Swann of the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police and officers of the Home Office Forensic Science Laboratory at Harrogate, I have developed and photographed latent fingerprints on the pages of books, legal documents, and personal letters, of various ages. The results indicate that fingerprints could, on rare occasions, provide useful evidence.

The recent news commonly used for the detection of prints on porous surfaces, such as paper, is ninhydrin. Its value for this purpose was first noticed by Svante Odén of the Royal Agricultural College, Uppsala, and the discovery was published by him and Bengt von Hofsten, also of Uppsala, in 1954 (*Nature*, Volume 173, pages 449-50). The advantage of the ninhydrin process is that it will reveal the presence of very old prints that could not be detected by the more common use of the fuming of sulphuric acid.

André A. Moenchsens developed latent impressions in a college textbook that he had not touched for at least nine years. He suggests that prints possibly as old as fifteen years could be revealed in this fashion, and notices that the prints of his own fingers were clearly visible. He has developed a thirty-year-old latent impression (*Fingerprint Techniques*, 1971, pages 122, 131). It appears probable that given the combination of a firm print, receptive paper, and suitable temperature, an undisturbed latent print might survive for very much longer.

So far as literary research is concerned two of the obvious disadvantages of turning to fingerprints for evidence is that the ninhydrin method stains the paper and that such fingerprints as could be important would normally be difficult to identify. But one can imagine circumstances—such as might involve, for instance, only work-sheets or proofs and an identifiable fingerprint—in which ownership or priorities of use could be established.

JOHN HORDEN,
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Leeds.

Father Christmas

Sir—I was interested to read Derek Brewer's review of J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Father Christmas Letters* (October 1) but I was a little puzzled at his reference to the "authentic deeper schemes" of the names of Polar Bear's nephews Val-kotukka and Pekku and of an elf called Hbereth. Later he says: "When we also learn in this appendix that Polar Bear's real name is Kôrhu we again feel ourselves leaving children's domestic comedy and coming to the brink of myth." Really? He may have a point with Hbereth, but one of Father Christmas's traditional homes is at Pyhäntunturi in Finnish Lapland, and Val-kotukka is Finnish and means Whitehair, while Pekku means Scout or Pet, and Kôrhu is simply Bear—names which seem to me short on deep echoes or brinks of myth. Perhaps the reviewer of the *Mirror* Professor needs to allow for his philological expertise as well as his philosophical touch.

DAPHNE MATTHEWS,
34 Woodcote Road, Caversham,
Berkshire RG4 7BX.

The Uses of Enchantment

Sir—In his otherwise excellent review of the contorted and absurd lengths to which Bruno Bettelheim takes his analysis in his newest work, *The Uses of Enchantment: The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales* (October 1), Geoffrey Gorer unfortunately perpetuates the erroneous idea that fairy tales, more appropriately folktales, are narrative created and performed by adults for children. In so doing, he unwittingly lends crucial support to a dubious part of Bettelheim's thesis. The folktales have never been nor is it now simply the literature of children. Folktales, especially those examined by Bettelheim, were created by adults for the amusement of other adults. They were the popular fantasy literature of the peoples of Europe and Asia before the development of other media besides oral for the transmission of narrative.

Their relegation to the nursery is a result of the concerns and prejudices of early collectors of folk narratives rather than of any qualities inherent in the stories themselves. Moreover, the choice of the identifying term, fairy tale, to define the genre is a result of its usage by early English and Irish collectors, Thomas Percy, James O'Halloran, T. Crofton Croker among others, as an equivalent for the German designation, *Märchen*, used by the Grimm brothers. In effect, Bettelheim has constructed a chain of reasoning based on a particular origin and intent of the folktales which is not supported by the facts; not to call attention to this fundamental error is to ignore the whole rich history of folk narrative research in Europe and America, and to give credence to a thesis which none can defend.

MICHAEL J. BELL,
Wayne State University, Detroit,
Michigan.

'Convoy'

Sir—A small error in D. C. Watt's interesting review of Martin Middlebrook's book *Convoy* (October 22) should I think be corrected. The code letters given to out-landish convoys, in the Second World War almost invariably signified the port from which they sailed, by the use of self-evident initials e.g. HX stood for Halifax, SL for Sierra Leone. SC stood for Sydney, Cape Breton Island from which the slow-torpedo Atlantic convoys sailed for North America, as stated by Professor Watt.

STEPHEN ROSKILL,
Churchill College, Cambridge.

Byron

Sir—May I, as a writer and researcher on Byron's life and works for many years, write to say how surprised I was to read Phyllis Grosskurth's very biased review of Elizabeth Langford's *Byron and the World* (October 15). Professor Langford's latest volume of *Byron's Letters and Journals: The Flesh is Frail* (October 15). To say that Lady Langford's biography is "thin, unsubstantial, and lacking in new information" is to say that it is a masterpiece of understatement.

Langford (1974), but it is thoroughly well-documented and indeed almost suffices to make a book of its own. Since 1950, Aslib has published an annual classified index to these accepted for higher degrees in the universities of Great Britain and Ireland (including, since 1969, those accepted by the Commonwealth of Nations and the Republic of South Africa). From 1976 onwards, entries in the index are being published at approximately six-monthly intervals in order to ensure greater currency.

In consultation with the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Standing Conference of Academic and University Librarians, we have decided to publish abstracts of these on microfiche, starting in 1977. We are extremely grateful to those who have written to us expressing interest in this project.

perhaps for Lord Chesterfield. Surely the two books cannot be compared. Professor Marchand's latest edited *Letters* contain some new Italian ones translated by Professor Nancy Derriso of the Italian department of Bryn Mawr College, but there are still gaps in the private collection of Contessa Amelia Gamba at Bagni di Lucca which have not yet been included. No doubt Professor Marchand will give us further unpublished letters in Volume 7.

ELMA DANGERFIELD,
The Byron Society, 6 Gerrard
Street, London, SW10 0JN.

Edward VII

Sir—I hasten to assure T. C. Omond your discriminating correspondence (*Letters*, October 22), that I share his revulsion at the thought of champagne served in a decanter. But that, according to Christopher Hibbert's recent biography (page 224), was the way Edward VII. served his dining extra, see 1883. Or, worse, he would mix it into a cocktail with whisky, maraschino, Angostura bitters and crushed ice. There is no accounting for royal tastes.

Certain less exalted Edwardians, presumably imbibing less exalted viandets, resorted to swizzle-sticks to chase away the bubbles. Would Mr Omond now agree that pre-1914 High Society stands "curiously remote"?

STEPHEN KOSS,
Department of History, Columbia
University, New York City.

James Pope-Hennessy

Sir—I was surprised to read the letter (October 29) in which Sir John Pope-Hennessy (whom I do not know) so intemperately and for the most part so gratuitously attacked my contributions to the *TLS*. While it is true that I have on three occasions referred in your pages to the late James Pope-Hennessy, none have I done so in a derogatory or disrespectful manner. In reviewing Frances Donaldson's excellent and deservedly successful *Edward VIII*, for example, I went out of my way to name him as the author of by far the best royal biography of this century. And in my reference (October 22) to the auspicious start made by the "perceptive" James Pope-Hennessy on his official life of Noel Coward I fail to detect anything derogatory, nor was anything of the kind intended.

Sir John was however quite correct in pointing out the serious slip of memory which I did make and for which I here apologize. For while "as a matter of fact not of opinion" the young man who was to be responsible for the death of his brother James did over a considerable period work for Mrs Jan Fleming at her country house, his acquaintanceship with his victim went far back beyond that strange coincidence, mentioned by me only because it was this appalling tragedy, involving so narrow a segment of Noel Coward's wide circle of friendship, that determined the authorship of the biography under review.

As for "gossip about the dead", about which Sir John complains, what on earth would become of biographers, curators and historians, even art-historians, without it?

ALASTAIR FORBES.

Thesis-publication

Sir—The position with regard to the availability of theses in this subject is quite bleak. As Adrian Wilson's *Letters* (October 15) suggests, since 1950, Aslib has published an annual classified index to these accepted for higher degrees in the universities of Great Britain and Ireland (including, since 1969, those accepted by the Commonwealth of Nations and the Republic of South Africa). From 1976 onwards, entries in the index are being published at approximately six-monthly intervals in order to ensure greater currency.

In consultation with the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Standing Conference of Academic and University Librarians, we have decided to publish abstracts of these on microfiche, starting in 1977. We are extremely grateful to those who have written to us expressing interest in this project.

purpose and hope that the reader will do so as the project goes under way.

The great majority of British universities do make their theses available for both lending and photocopying, and I understand that twenty-six universities now deposit them with the British Library Lending Division, whence it is possible to borrow or purchase photocopies and to purchase copies on microfilm. I suspect that, if the services available from BLD, the combination of the Aslib index and the microfiche will constitute just about the most economic method of dealing with theses as far as the United Kingdom is concerned.

LESLIE WILSON,
Aslib, 3 Belgrave Square, London
SW1X 8PL.

'The Alteration'

Sir—Let me reassure J. J. Kenyon (*Letters*, October 22) that the author of *Poems* is no pseudonym of Kingsley Amis. Keith Roberts has published some 20 books, both science and historical fiction, and his most recent science fiction story collection, *The Grain Kings*, was published on August 31.

ANTHONY WHITMORE,
Hutchinson Publishing Group,
Fitzroy Square, London W1P 0JN.

Sir—There is surely no need for J. J. Kenyon to go back so short a distance in drawing attention to the similarity between Kingsley Amis's *The Alteration* and Keith Roberts's *Poems*. The fact is that Roberts's fiction has been dealing with history since 1930 or earlier.

From a potentially very long list I instance only Ray Bradbury's *A Sound of Thunder* (a short story first published in book form in his country in 1953) and (still a considerable list to Mr Amis's *The Grain Kings*) the *Grain Kings* (1969) which presupposes a Southern history in the American Civil War.

There have been many others and I see no reason why there should not be many more, for this is an excellent method of commenting on history in general. As for the possible originator of the method, I could have been changed if Cleopatra's nose had been differently shaped, must surely be one's first choice.

EDMUND CRISPIN,
Week Meadow, Highgate,
Darlington, Teeside, Devon TQ1 6JF.

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The Portuguese Nun

Sir—Once more a scholar has tried to set the public right with regard to *Les Lettres portugaises*. Margaret C. Weir (*Letters*, October 15) states categorically: "The author was the Vicomte de Guilleragues who was later thought to be the 'translator'." And yet, she laments, "the romantic legend that is based on real love-letters written by a Portuguese nun. The situation, I think, is not quite so simple."

In their 1972 edition of *Guilleragues*, Frédéric Delfiore and Jacques Rougeot claimed for him "la paternité indiscutable des *Lettres portugaises*" (page 92). But the word "narrative" is ambiguous, and potentially misleading, here. It means that Guilleragues is responsible for the text of the *Lettres portugaises* as it has come down to us, the text first published by Basile in 1669, that the statement is clearly correct. (This has been argued many times, but the recent editions, in a series of studies, have offered the fullest evidence.) But if "paternity" is taken in the sense of a real-life letter, then the statement is clearly incorrect. (This has been argued many times, but the recent editions, in a series of studies, have offered the fullest evidence.) But if "paternity" is taken in the sense of a real-life letter, then the statement is clearly incorrect.

EDWARD CRANKSHAW,
Church House, Sandhurst, Hawk-
hurst, Kent.

Mirror images

By Alan Watkins

HUGH CUDLIFF:
Walking on the Water
428pp. Bodley Head. £5.95.

We have been hearing a good deal lately about numeracy and literacy, or the lack of them. We rarely hear about lack of articulateness. The reason, I suspect, is that it suits our rulers (Labour, Conservative or even Liberal) and also our employers to have a population who can read, write and count. It suits them less well to have a population who can speak for themselves. But the problem of articulateness—for it is a problem, as anyone who sees an English soccer player interviewed on television can see—has less to do with class than with region or nationality. It is exceptional, in my experience, to come across an inarticulate South Welshman.

They may be often talk nonsense, as Lord Cudlipp sometimes does. (For example, it is simply not true that "Stanley Baldwin was cynically concealing the need for rearmament so that he could win the election of 1935": see R. Basset's famous article in the *Cambridge Journal*. Nor is it true that "the people were utterly aware of the Hitler danger in 1933": see almost any modern history of the inter-war period.) Again, we may also like the sound of our own voices, whether in speech or in writing, as Cudlipp manifestly does. But we can, many of us, do a turn if required; and a turn is what Cudlipp provides. The result, *Walking on the Water*, is a very good book which will be invaluable to anyone interested in politics, in the press or in both.

EDWARD CRANKSHAW,
Church House, Sandhurst, Hawk-
hurst, Kent.

Rômulo Betancourt

Sir—In a recent issue of *The Times Literary Supplement* (August 6), I have the pleasure of reviewing a collection of essays and speeches by Rômulo Betancourt, the ex-President of Venezuela. In this review I described Betancourt as having once been in the 1930s a member of the Venezuelan Communist Party. I recognized, however, that it was on the basis of this and I would like therefore to apologize for the misunderstanding so caused.

HUGH THOMAS,
29 Ladbroke Grove, London W11
3BB.

The Isaac Deutscher Prize

Sir—The undersigned members of the Jury of the Isaac Deutscher Memorial Prize wish to announce that the Prize for 1976 to the value of £100 has been awarded to Professor Włodzimierz Brus for his book, *Socialist Ownership and Political Systems*, which was published last year by Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Professor Włodzimierz Brus taught at the Warsaw School of Planning and Statistics and at the University of Warsaw until his dismissal for political reasons in March 1968. He had, from 1956-1958, been the director of the Research Institute of the Polish Planning Commission; and he was from 1957-1961 the vice-chairman of the Polish Economic Council. He has, since 1973, been attached to St Antony's College, Oxford. His other works translated into English include *The Market in a Socialist Economy* and *On the Economics and Politics of Socialism*, also published by Routledge and Kegan Paul. Professor Brus will give the Isaac Deutscher Memorial Lecture on the subject of "Polish October—Twenty Years After". The date and other arrangements will be announced in due course.

The Isaac Deutscher Memorial Prize for 1977 will be awarded in the autumn of 1977 and a jury drawn from among the sponsors will be glad to consider work published or in typescript. Any such works should be submitted by May 1, 1977, to The Isaac Deutscher Memorial Prize, c/o Loyd's Bank, 68 Warwick Square, London SW1.

PERRY ANDERSON,
E. H. CARR,
TAMARA DEUTSCHER,
ERIC HOBBSBAWM,
MONTY JOHNSTONE,
RALPH MILBRAND,
JOHN WESTERGAARD.

Among this week's contributors

T. C. BARKER is the author (with Michael Robbins) of *A History of London Transport*, 1974.

V. R. BERNHARDT's books include *Der Tirpitz-Plan*, 1971, and *Germany and the Approach of War in 1914*, 1973.

AMITA BROOKHURST's books include *Germany: The Rise and Fall of an Eighteenth-Century Phenomenon*, 1972.

W. H. BRUFORD is the author of *The German Tradition of Self-Cultivation*, 1975.

JAMES CAMPAN is a Research Fellow at Newnham College, Cambridge.

F. L. CARSTEN's *Fascist Movements in Austria* will be published early next year.

GORDON CRAIG's books include *The Battle of Khatyn*, 1965, and *The Politics of the Prussian Army, 1640-1945*, 1965.

DAVID DAICHES is Professor of English at the University of Sussex.

A. G. DICKENS is Director of the Institute of Historical Research. His books include *The English Reformation*, 1965.

G. R. ELTON is Professor of English Constitutional History at the University of Cambridge.

ROY FULLER's most recent collection of poems is *An Ill-Governed Coast*, published this year.

W. P. JOLLY's *Junjo* has just been published.

PETER KEATING is the author of *The Working Classes in Victorian Fiction*, 1971.

CHARLES MADON's most recent book is *Art Students Observed*, written with Barbara Weinberger, 1973.

TIMOTHY W. MASON teaches Modern History at St Peter's College, Oxford.

JEREMY NOAKES is the author of *The Nazi Party in Lower Saxony, 1921-1933*, 1971.

S. S. PRAWER's most recent book is *Karl Marx and World Literature*, published this year.

PIERRE PAUL READ's novel *Polonoise* will be published later this month.

C. H. SISSON's books include *The Speeches of Walter Bagehot*, 1972, and *The Spirit of British Administration*, 1959.

JONATHAN STERNBERG's *Why Switzerland? Was published last month.*

FRITZ STERN's books include *The Failure of Hitlerism*, 1972, and *The Varieties of History*, 1957.

J. L. M. STEWART's novel *A Memorial* was published earlier this year.

KENNETH VARTY is Professor of French at the University of Glasgow.

J. E. VERNANT is Professor of the Comparative Study of Ancient Religions at the Collège de France.

ALAN WATKINS is political columnist of *The Observer*.

after the tragic death the year before of Eileen Aitken.

Such reticence is probably wise. In an autobiography the writer can tell either all or nothing, or virtually nothing, about his personal life. Cudlipp has taken the latter course—except where King is concerned. Indeed, King is discussed (I intend no disrespect to anybody) almost as if he were a wife, an extremely troublesome and temperamental wife, from whom Cudlipp eventually obtained a divorce. Though good relations are now restored. On to put it differently, from the moment of King's entry the book changes, as *Buswells' Life of Johnson* changes from the time of the meeting of the two in Davies's bookshop.

The reason King was dismissed, according to Cudlipp, was not that he was hostile to Harold Wilson. It was that he confused his functions, seeing himself as the saviour of his country when he was only the chairman of a large publishing company. As Cudlipp says, King was not the same: he was chairman of the board rather than an old-fashioned proprietor.

I have no cause to doubt Cudlipp's vivid and skilful account, which adds greatly to our knowledge of the 1964-70 period. I should, however, like to offer the perspective slightly by examining his over-repeated claim (made both on his own and on the papers' behalf) to be "irreverent" and "against the establishment."

The truth is that over since 1945 the *Mirror* papers have given active support to whoever happened to be in control of the Labour Party. They have not, to be sure, been hack papers in the sense in which the old *Daily Herald* was a hack paper—though there was a period between 1974 and the retirement of Wilson when the *Mirror* could have given lessons in sycophancy to *Pravda*. Gaitskill, true, caused a certain embarrassment when he favoured the selling of Oadams Press to the Thomson Organisation rather than to King; but, on the whole, the *Mirror* has been thought worthy of support was clear: Attlee, or more particularly Morrison, against Bevan; then Gaitskill; then Wilson.

In 1969, after the removal of King, I was writing a political column in the *Sunday Mirror* in addition to my column in the *New Statesman*. There was no attempt at dictation or even suggestion, whether by Cudlipp (syndicate Jacobson), John Bevan (syndicate now) or anyone else. To one week, however, the column did not appear. I had written a piece saying that Wilson was blustering over in *Place of Strife*, which would be unlikely to pass into law. Bevan (Lord Ardwick) had written a specially commissioned article to precisely the opposite effect. For once turned out to be right, though unpublished, and Bevan wrong. I made no complaints now, though I made several then. I merely record the episode.

And if there is one thing that exceeds the *Mirror* regard for the Labour establishment, it is the Labour establishment's regard for the *Mirror*. Each takes the other at its own undeniably high valuation. Hence the sins which that used to take place in Bevan's under Jacobson's auspices; the endorsement of his squalid journalism; the accommodation which the party makes available to its lesser journalists (though of course the paper has to pay) at the main conference hotel. It was this cosy relationship which King threatened. The men who created and sustained it, Cudlipp, Jacobson and Bevan, have now left active journalism. It remains to be seen whether the special relationship will survive their departure. In Bevan's arrival of James Callaghan in Wilson's place.

ALAN WATKINS is political columnist of *The Observer*.

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An ovation from the critics for KINGSLEY AMIS'S The Alteration

'An imaginative tour de force... a satire, a fantasy, an adventure story, science fiction and a genuine tragedy' all neatly rolled into one. The result is a more serious book than all the earlier ones, but sprinkled with plenty of Amis humour, and as readable as ever. Philip Toynbee, *Observer*

'At one brilliant stroke, Mr Amis imagines an England never free of Rome, an England dominated by Roman priests, an England where piety is synonymous with intellectual suicide and science is considered pornographic... It is amusing and clever, and admirably whole. It succeeds in suggesting a different cast of mind, so that the reader is shocked in a dozen different ways... Mr Amis does these total fantasies better than anyone I can think of, and *The Alteration* is an altogether enjoyable and instructive addition to the world of his fiction.' Robert Nye, *Guardian*

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Jonathan Cape, 25.50

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